

Legislative News



February 3, 2012

New Higher Education Legislation

[HB 1579 - Davis \(R-Webb City\)](#)

The bill requires the CBHE to adopt a policy requiring every institution of higher education in this state to award educational credits to enrolled veterans for courses completed as part of the students' military training or service which also meet the standards of the American Council on Education or equivalent standards.

[HB 1587 - Wyatt \(R-Green Castle\)](#)

The bill changes the composition of the University of Missouri Board of Curator so that the nine member board consists of eight members and a voting student curator, which shall have the right to vote in all matters before the board, including the hiring and firing of the president of the UM System, chancellors of each campus, the general counsel of the university, the secretary of the board of curators, and all other general officers of the university. The student curator would be excluded from all other decisions regarding the hiring and firing of faculty or staff.

[SB 747 - Schaefer \(R-Columbia\)](#)

The bill provides that one member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators will be a voting student curator. Under the bill, the student curator has the same voting rights as in HB 1587 above. The bill also specifies that the student curator shall be graduate or professional student.

House Higher Education continues work

The House Higher Education Committee met for the second time of the young legislative session on Tuesday. During the meeting, executive sessions were held on two bills before the committee.

House Bill 1041, sponsored by Rep. Thomson (R-Maryville), would restore authority of several four-year institutions to lease facilities without general assembly approval. The bill was voted do-pass by the committee, but failed a consent-status vote.

House Bill 1042 would modify the duties of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. A committee substitute, which removed performance funding language from the reporting provisions of the bill, was adopted and voted do-pass by the committee.

No new hearings were conducted by the committee during the meeting as the chairman awaited bill referrals from House

Speaker Tilley. Since the meeting, several bills have been referred to the committee including HB 1216, HB 1257 and HB 1467.

House Bill 1216, sponsored by Rep. McNeil (D-Florissant), would increase the maximum statutory award amounts of Alzheimer research project grants awarded by the University of Missouri Board of Curators. House Bill 1257, sponsored by Rep. Kelly (D-Columbia), provides for a voting student curator on the University of Missouri Board of Curators. House Bill 1467, sponsored by Rep. Nasheed (D-St. Louis), would require MOHELA to set aside a portion of its assets in certain circumstances for the forgiveness of student loans held by the organization.

The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee was not scheduled as of the publishing of this edition of the MDHE's *Legislative News*.

Senate Education meeting cancelled

The meeting of the Senate Committee on Education scheduled for Wednesday was cancelled this week per Senate Floor Dempsey. The chamber spent the day debating SB 592, a bill which modifies the law relating to the Missouri Human Rights Act.

The committee was scheduled to conduct public hearings on SB 483, SB 562 and SB 563. The cancelled committee meeting, however, means those bills still await a hearing by the committee.

Senate Bill 483, sponsored by Sen. Rupp (R-Wentzville), would create the Early High School Graduation Scholarship program

for students graduating early from Missouri public high schools. Senate Bill 562, sponsored by Sen. Dixon (R-Springfield), would restore authority of several four-year institutions to lease facilities without general assembly approval. Senate Bill 563, also sponsored by Sen. Dixon, would modify the terms of the Missouri State University Board of Governors so that no more than three governors' terms would expire in the same year.

While meetings of the Senate Committee on Education are generally held on Wednesday afternoons, no meeting of the committee for next week was scheduled as of the printing of this publication.